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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: FURTHER GOF REACTION TO DEATH OF EYADEMA

REF: PARIS 747

1. MFA spokesman on February 7 addressed the issue of Togo President Eyadema and the naming of his son as his successor (reftel). Informal Embassy translation of MFA spokesman's statement and response to questions follows.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- I recall to you the spokesman's declaration of February 6, 2005:

(Repeats February 6 communique reported reftel para 3.)

-- France expresses its concern regarding the modifications which are moving away from the institutional process laid out in the Togolese Constitution.

-- France recalls in particular the importance of the rapid organization of free and democratic elections to set a term for an open transition caused by the disappearance of President Eyadema, and to give legitimacy to the institutions.

-- A mission of ECOWAS, led by Mrs. Mindaoudou, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger, in the name of the ECOWAS presidency, and Mr. Ibn Chambas, Secretary-General of ECOWAS, will today hold meetings in Lome.

-- France will take great account of the results of this mission, in close consultation with the African Union, the countries of the region, and its partners in the international community.

QUESTION: What is your reaction to the modification of the constitution in Togo, which allows the son to succeed the father, without an electoral process? Does France have the intention of suspending aid as a way of applying pressure?

ANSWER: I refer you to my declaration of today.

QUESTION: What does France think of the sleight of hand which has given the appearance of legality to the nomination of the son?

ANSWER: I refer you to my declaration of today.

END TEXT.

3. Abidjan minimize considered.
Leach